tehsil of Allahabad but due to lack of proper building and adequate number of doctors, these two hospitals are lying closed; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to bring both these hospitals in operation by providing all necessary there urgently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) The Government of Uttar Pradesh have informed that a Government Hospital (now named as new PHC) was established in 1974 and a Women's Hospital was established in 1984. These are functioning since establishment in rented buildings.

(b) Does not arise.

Scholarships to Foreign Students

2361. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken fresh initiatives for developing good relations with foreign countries through cultural diplomacy;

(b) if so, the details of new strategies conceived and implemented recently and proposals and under consideration in this regard;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide scholarships and other facilities to students from developing countrise for pursuing technical and professional education; and

(c) if so, the details of such facilities already made available during the last three years indicating proposal for expansion/upgradation of such facilities to foreign students in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) The Government attaches high importance to strengthening cultural relations with other countries. It constantly reviews the efficacy of the activities and programmes for promoting bilateral cultural exchanges with various countries with a view to maximise the effectiveness of these programmes in promoting India's interests abroad in a changing world. An annual programme of activities is drawn up every year taking into account the availability of budgetary resources, the commitments under bilateral cultural exchange programmes (CEPs) and the overall policy priorities. The special focus of our activities is South, South East and Central Asia. The major manifestations of Indian culture organised during the current financial year included the days of Indian Culture in Russia, Vietnam and Bangladesh.

(c) The Government offers over 1000 scholarships each year to foreign students under its various scholarship schemes. These scholarships are given for pursuing degree level courses at Indian universities/ institutions of higher learning. The courses include technical and professional disciplines other than medicine.

(d) The Ministry of External Affairs is also providing facilities to foreign students from developing countries to study in Engineering and Medical courses in India on a self-financing basis against a fixed quota of seats made available by the Deptt. of Education and Ministry of Health for this purpose.

Separately, short term training in technical and professional courses is arranged under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme of the Ministry of External Affairs.

The stipends for ICCR scholars under different categories have recently been enhanced w.e.f. July, 1995. Besides the tuition fee and the stipend, the scholars are also paid a house rent subsidy, annual contingency grant, medical and other benefits.

Mazagon Docks Limited

2362. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether full capacity of the Mazagon Docks Limited (MDL) is being utilised;

(b) if not, the details of the units in the Docks lying closed for the last many years;

(c) whether facilities developed at Nhava Sheva are also lying idle;

(d) whether submarine building unit is idle and if so, since when;

(e) whether there are future plan of the Indian Navy to build submarines;

(f) if so, the accumulated loss of Mazagon Docks Limited as on March 31, 1996; and

(g) the steps taken\proposed to be taken to ensure full utilisation of Mazagon Docks Limited Organisation and wipe out its accumulated losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (g) It is fact that full capacity of the Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) is not being utilised. No unit of MDL is, however, lying closed for many years. The facilities at Nhava are not in use from 1995-96 due to lack of orders. The facilities dedicated to submarine building are not in use after 1993-94 due to no order from Indian Navy. Indian Navy has recently placed a Latter of Intent on MDL for construction of two submarines. As on 31-3-1996, the accumulated losses of MDL were Rs. 41.12 Crores. To wipe out its accumulated losses, MDL has proposed, as one of the steps, re-structuring of its capital base to reduce interest burden. As a part of diversification MDL has entered into construction of wind-mill towers. MDL is also rationalising its work force through implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS).